

Tool Tests



Triple-Duty Drill

At first glance, the Skil Xtra looks like a conventional electric drill. Upon further examination, however, I discovered that it's actually three versatile tools in one—a drill/screwdriver, hammer-drill and power chisel. A control-collar, located behind the chuck, allows you to switch easily from one

function to another.

Turn the collar to the first position and the tool is a powerful $\frac{3}{8}$ -in., variable-speed, reversing drill. It operates between 0 and 800 rpm and is powered by a 3.2-amp motor. The tool performed well during standard operations such as boring in wood, drilling in metal, driving and re-

The versatile Skil Xtra tool is really three tools in one—a drill/screwdriver, hammer-drill and power chisel. It's shown with an accessory kit: masonry drill bit, carving gouge and rigid-blade scraper.

moving screws, hole sawing and drum sanding. Turn the collar to the second position and shift into the hammer-drill mode which features bit rotation and percussion simultaneously. The hammer action delivers up to 36,000 blows per minute to bore through tough masonry materials easily.

The third mode, power chisel, delivers percussion blows only, with no bit rotation. The tool accepts special wood chisels, scrapers, a carving gouge and a grout chisel. The Skil Xtra (model No. 599) costs about \$81. Contact Skil, 4801 West Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60646.—*Rosario Capotosto*



To switch operating modes, push control collar forward and rotate it to desired position.



It took just 6 seconds to hammer-drill through block. Regular drill mode took 55 seconds.



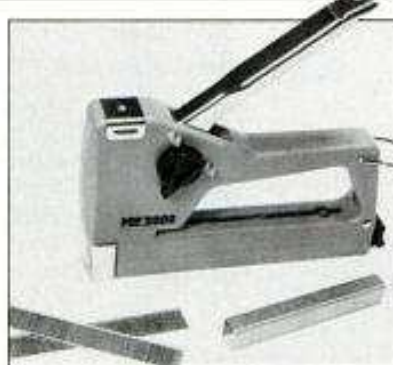
Power chisel, with V-shaped gouge, removes stock quickly. Flat chisels are also available.



The $\frac{1}{4}$ -in.-wide rigid scraper works fine on rough work like chipping off hardened concrete.

Pop Goes The Stapler

I recently tested a new stapler gun—the Pop 2000—and was pleasantly surprised by this simple tool. Despite weighing only 11 ounces, the tool packs plenty of power and it drives staples and nailpins (small headless nails). The tool drives $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. and $\frac{3}{16}$ -in.-long staples, and $\frac{3}{16}$ -in.-long nailpins. Load a nailpin strip in each side of the stapler channel to drive two nailpins simultaneously. Other features in-



Lightweight, yet powerful, stapler gun drives two sizes of staples and nailpins. It features a tough plastic housing.

clude dual power settings, a safety lock-off and a rehammer setting. When I tried to



The stapler offers two power settings: minimum and maximum. Also a rehammer setting.

staple into oak, the staples, as expected, weren't driven fully. However, a rehammering feature allows you to drive the staples again until



Oak proved too tough for stapler. But, rehammering drives fasteners again until flush.

they're flush. The Pop 2000 costs about \$19. Contact Emhart Products, Box 3716, Reading, PA 19605.—*Rosario Capotosto*